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Message Text

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42
ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-14 PM-03 SP-02 L-01 INR-05 EB-03

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EEC
SUBJECT: US/EC COMMISSION CONSULTATIONS OCTOBER 21-22

1. FIELDING, EC COMMISSION DIRECTOR NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS, HAS RELAYED TO US IMPRESSIONS OF A DISCUSSION IN WHICH SOAMES INFORMED GALLAGHER, HANNAY AND FIELDING ABOUT HIS FIRST THOUGHTS ON THE US-EC CONSULTATIONS. FIELDING STRESSED THAT THIS WAS INFORMAL INFORMATION AND THAT THE COMMISSION WAS WELL AWARE THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE FORMALLY PROPOSING AN AGENDA TO THE COMMISSION. HOWEVER, HE THOUGHT SOAMES' PERSONAL THOUGHTS MIGHT BE OF INTEREST.

2. SINCE SOAMES WILL BE HAVING DINNER WITH THE SECRETARY ON OCTOBER 21, IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO HOLD THE GENERAL POLITICAL DISCUSSION AT THAT TIME. HOWEVER, SOAMES WAS HOPEFUL THAT SOMETHING COULD BE WORKED OUT TO ALLOW A POLITICAL DISCUSSION IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT WITH A SMALL GROUP OF ONLY STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS ON THE AFTERNOON OF 21 OCTOBER. SOAMES WOULD EXPECT TO BE ACCOMPANIED ONLY BY HANNAY. AMONG THE SUBJECTS WHICH SOAMES THOUGHT COULD POSSIBILY BE OF INTEREST IN SUCH A DISCUSSION WERE: SOUTHERN AFRICA, IBERIAN AFFAIRS, THE AEGEAN, AND RELATIONS WITH
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THE EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES (E.G. EC-COMECOM RELATIONS).

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SOAMES DID NOT THINK OF THIS LIST AS BEING NECESSARILY EXHAUSTIVE OR OBLIGATORY.

3. IN REGARD TO THE AGENDA FOR THE GENERAL CONSULTATIONS, SOAMES WAS QUITE EAGER TO HAVE A DISCUSSION OF THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE AND FISHING. HE THOUGHT THIS WOULD BE A USEFUL FRESH SUBJECT TO ADD TO THE USUAL AGENDA.

4. SOAMES IS NOT AT ALL KEEN ON A GENERAL DISCUSSION OF ECONOMIC MATTERS. HE CONSIDERS THIS A SUBJECT FOR COMMISSIONER HAFERKAMP, WHO WILL NOT BE ACCOMPANYING SOAMES IN OCTOBER BUT WHO DOES PLAN FROM TIME TO TIME TO DISCUSS THESE MATTERS WITH US OFFICIALS. THOUGH AN ECONOMIC DISCUSSION WOULD BE UNDOUBTEDLY INTERESTING, SOAMES IS NOT PARTICULARLY EXPERT AND LHE COMMISSION HAS ONLY A LIMITED ROLE IN SUCH SUBJECTS. IL WOULD NOT BE A GOOD USE OF THE LIMITED TIME.

5. SOAMES IS WILLING TO HOLD A "BIT OF A DISCUSSION ON NORTH-SOUTH QUESTIONS", BUT HE WILL BE WITHOU AN ADVISOR ON THIS SUBJECT SINCE THE COMMISSION EXPERTS WILL BE IN PARIS. CONSEQUENTLY, HE WILL NOT BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS DETAILS ALTHOUGH HE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN VIEWS ON HOW THE CIEC SHOULD BE WRAPPED UP "WITHOUT BREAKING CHINA".

6. SOAMES ALSO ANTICIPATES THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO DISCUSS MTN AFFAIRS AND HOW THE NEGOTIATIONS CAN BE BROUGHT TO A CONCLUSION IN 1977. THIS DISCUSSION WOULD OF COURSE INCLUDE WHATEVER NEEDS TO BE SAID ON BILATERAL TRADE PROBLEMS. SOAMES WOULD NOT BE INTERESTED IN A LAUNDRY LIST DISCUSSION OF EVERY SMALL PROBLEM BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE COMMUNITY BUT THINKS THAT THE PLENARY COULD ADDRESS MAJOR PROBLEMS AFTER THEY HAD FIRST BEEN DISCUSSED BY A SMALL WORKING GROUP. HINTON

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